PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0525

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Vail, III

Serial No.: 10/678,731

Confirmation No.: 6110

Filed: October 2, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CEMENTING DRILL STRINGS IN PLACE FOR ONE PASS DRILLING AND COMPLETION OF OIL AND GAS WELLS

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Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Tsay, F.

Customer No. 36735

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on 4 February 2005

Kyla D. Cummings

Kyla D. Cummings

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 29, 2004

In response to the Office Action dated October 29, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 29, 2005, the shortened statutory period extended one month up to and including February 29, 2005 by the Request for One-Month Extension of Time included herewith, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0525/WBP the fee of $700 for excess claims and for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

PAGE 4/21 * RCVD AT 2/4/2005 8:18:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:+7136234846 * DURATION (mm-ss):06-08